

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 8, 12, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 19 and 20 are new. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant's attorney Eric Gifford and Examiner Habte Mered held a telephone interview on January 12, 2005 to discuss the pending office action and particularly how claim 1 might be amended to clarify the differences over the cited art, namely Wang (US 6,636,505). Claim 1 and the other independent claims have been so amended and are resubmitted for the Examiner's consideration.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huotari et al (US Pub. No. 2002/0004935) in view of Wang et al (US 6,636,505). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huotari in view of Wang and Ramanathan (US 6,182,136).

Claims 1, 8, 12, 17 and 18 as amended are directed to a method, system and modem that provide a list of a plurality of internal domain names for an ISP to a modem, transmit an authentication request including a user identifier from the modem to the listed internal domain names and receive authorization from at least one of the domain names associated with the user identifier. Support is found on p. 9, l. 27-30 and p. 15, line 23 to p. 16, line 20 of the application.

Both Wang and the Applicant Chong are, in part, trying to address the same problem of automatically provisioning modems and broadband services to reduce the amount of human interaction in the process, and thus reduce the amount of time customers spend on the phone and the frequency of unnecessary "truck rolls". One piece of automatically provisioning the modem is acquiring the one or more internal domain names of an ISP that authenticate a client's service(s) and provide configuration information for the modem. Conventionally a customer service representative would give the customer these internal domain names over the phone and the customer would have to type them in each time he or she logged on. This caused a lot of problems.

Wang circumvents this by transporting a service profile including the internal

domain name assigned to the user for each particular service as exemplified in Table 6 to construct a user profile (Fig. 14). When Wang's customer clicks on the "AOL-premium" Service Icon, an authentication request is sent to the one internal domain name assigned to that particular service. Wang may establish concurrent connections to different services and ISPs but each connection is made by sending an authorization request to the one internal domain name assigned to that service. Conversely, Chong addresses the problem by providing a list of a plurality of possible internal domain names for a particular ISP to the modem. One or more of these internal domain names should be associated with the user identifier but some will not. In Chong, the authentication request is sent to the listed internal domain names and at least one but not all return authorization. Whereas Wang must configure both the network side to assign the domain names to the proper BSNs and authorization servers and properly configure the user profile for each customer to identify the one assigned internal domain name for each service, Chong simply configures the network side and provides customer modems with a list of the possible internal domain names. The modem transmits the authorization request to the listed internal domain names and allows the network side to match the user to the assigned internal domain and return the proper authorization. Chong's approach reduces both the time required of the ISP to configure the modem by eliminating individualized profiles and the possibility that an error occurs due to a mismatch between those profiles and the configuration of the network side.

The rejections of claims 1-20 in over Huotari in view of Wang are respectfully traversed and are believed to be patentable over the cited art.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


Georgann S. Grunebach, Reg. No. 33,179
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Date: January 13, 2006

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
RE / R11 / A109
P.O. Box 956
2250 E. Imperial Highway
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

Phone: (310) 964-4615